

# HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF BUILDINGS

## BENNINGTON ON THE HILL

BY

RICHARD S. RAYMAN

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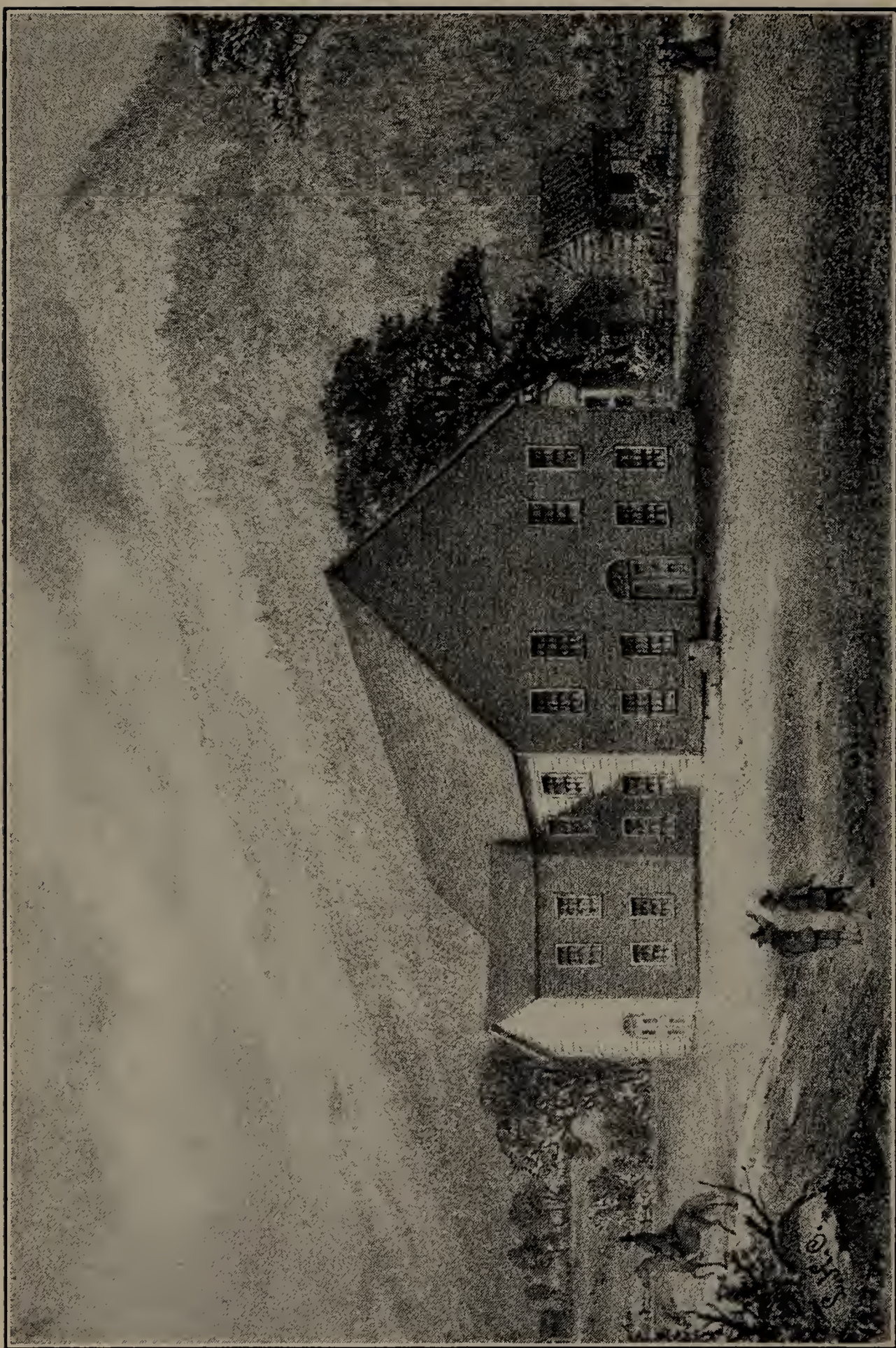






BENNINGTON-ON-THE-HILL,  
VERMONT





The First Meeting House in Vermont, 1763



# HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BUILDINGS

now or once located in the Village on the Hill  
at Bennington, Vermont, formerly  
known as Bennington Center,  
and now called

## OLD BENNINGTON

Original list compiled by Hiram Harwood in 1837

Revised and enlarged by  
Deacon Samuel Chandler in 1870

Added to by his son, E. S. Chandler,  
and C. F. Sears in 1919

Elaborated, enlarged and completed  
by

RICHARD S. BAYHAN

CENTRAL PUBLISHING HOUSE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Dedicated to my life-long friend,  
MISS KATHERINE J. HUBBELL

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# 1827266

## P R E F A C E

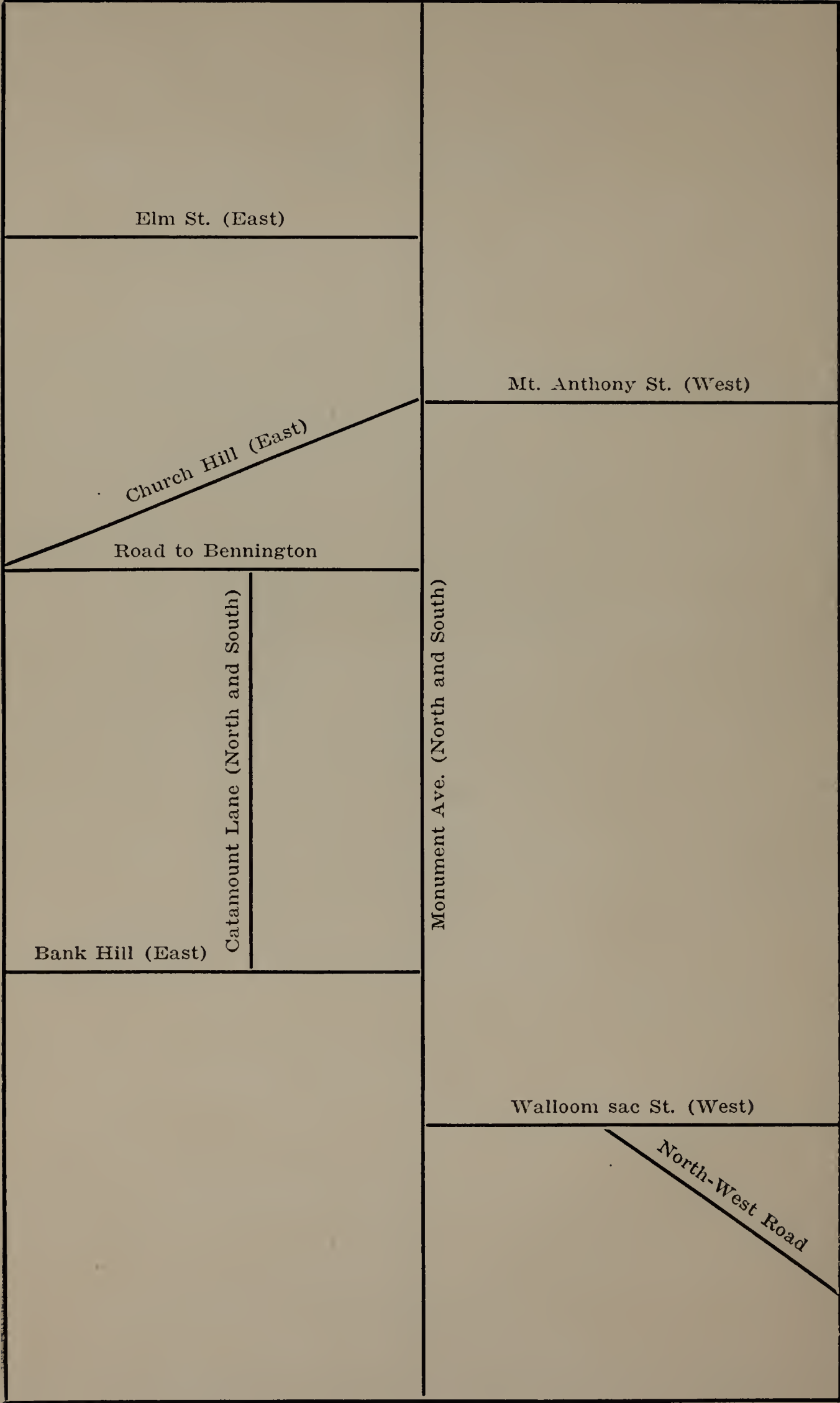
Vermont, known as "The Wilderness," was a part of "The New Hampshire Grants." Benning Wentworth, for whom Bennington was named, was the Governor. He sent soldiers out in groups to explore the territory. In 1759 Capt. Samuel Robinson and a party of friends who were returning from Canada, mistook the Walloomsac River for the Hudson, and encamped at Bennington. So delighted were they with the scenery that they decided to settle there at some future date. And so on June 18, 1761, the Harwood and Pratt families arrived, Capt. Robinson and others, coming in the fall. Mrs. Bridget Harwood rode in on horseback and was the "First Settler." The Harwoods located one mile south of what is now Bennington-on-the-Hill. Later came the Saffords, Fays, and others who settled the vicinity where the "Old First Church" now stands. I am trying to tell the story of the buildings comprising the village on the Hill, from 1761 to 1927.

RICHARD S. BAYHAN.

Cleveland, O.

Oct. 2nd, 1929.

STREETS—BENNINGTON-ON-THE-HILL



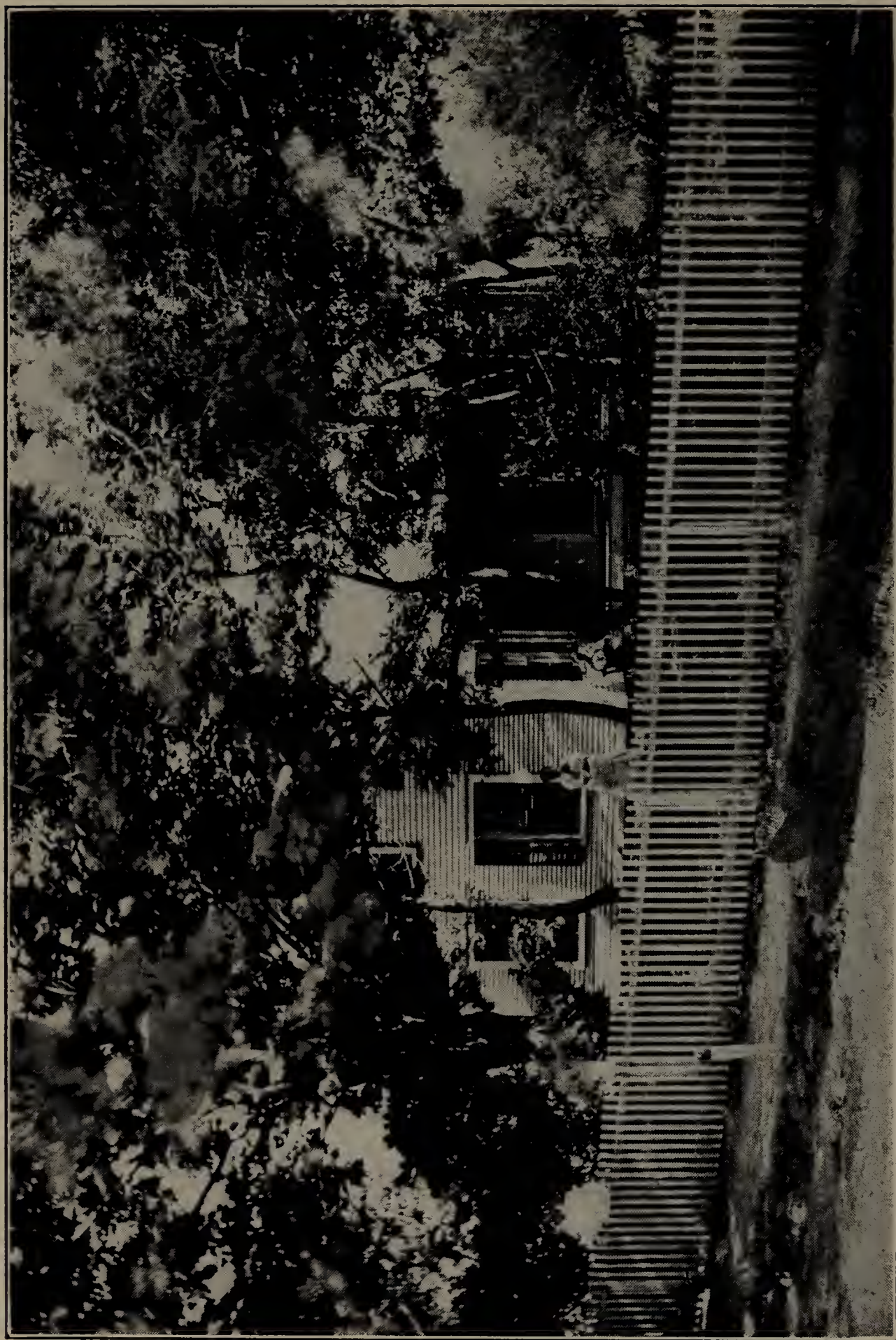
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Poolc Homestead, Erected 1806 by Jacob and Zeruah Whitmarsh Poole  
Great-Grandparents of R. S. Bayhan—Mrs. Jane Ter-Bush Poole, seated. Miss Katherine Poole, standing



# HISTORICAL SKETCH OF OLD BENNINGTON

## EAST SIDE OF MONUMENT AVENUE

### 1—Michael Martin House.

1-1/2-story wood house, built by Henry Robinson. Occupied for many years by Mrs. Temple, mother of Mrs. Helen T. Brigham, world-famous spiritualist lecturer. Later owned by Dennis Martin, then by his son, Michael Martin, now used as a summer home by his widow, Mrs. Anna Martin.

### 2—Bahan Homestead.

1-1/2-story wood house, built in 1780 by John Spear, later owned by Wm. Haswell, then by James Bahan, then by John H. Bahan. Burned with several barns in 1898. This house contained large fireplaces and an old-time brick oven.

### 3—John Bahan Home.

2-1/2-story wood house, built in 1908. Now owned by Mary R. Sanford, and called "Tucked Away."

### 4—Benj. R. Sears Carpenter Shop.

Built over into a house, occupied by H. L. Stillson, George B. Sears, Chas. F. Sears, also by Zebina E. Fobes. Moved to lands of John H. Bahan. Burned.

### 5—Benj. R. Sears Hay Barn.

Remodeled into dwelling, and now owned by Mrs. R. L. S. Hall. In this building stood for many years the gallows on which Archibald Bates was hung. This was the last public execution in Vermont.

### 6—Anthony Haswell Dwelling.

Mr. Haswell was the first printer of the Vermont Gazette. This house was built of parts of the Old First Meeting House of 1763. B. R. Sears rebuilt and occupied it for many years. Moved across the street, now home of Thos. Vail.





*Pub. by courtesy of W. T. White*

Old Academy Library, Bennington Center



*Pub. by courtesy of W. T. White*

Bennington Center, Ethan Allen's Residence



7—John Bahan Homestead.

1-1/2-story wood, built by John H. and Harriet Poole Bahan in 1869. Enlarged in 1888. Removed to present site of "Tucked Away." Destroyed by fire in 1898.

8—The Priory.

2-1/2-story wood, built on site of No. 7 by Mary R. Sanford, now owned by Mrs. M. Shoemaker.

9—Peleg Millington House.

1-1/2-story wood, owned later by Samuel Chase, then by George Ford, later moved across the street, and used by janitor of Battle Monument. Torn down finally and moved to Bennington Flats, where it was rebuilt exactly as before. Now standing (second house west of stone Montague house) at Harmon's Corners, and owned by John H. Percey.

10—Old Vermont Gazette Building. Home of the first newspaper in Vermont.

2-story wood, "M" roof. Gazette printed in upper story. Lower story occupied by Darius Clark, bookbinder, and Erastus, his son, and Solomon, his brother, cabinet-makers. Torn down.

11—John Cushman Tavern.

2-story wood. Owned later by Daniel Huling, finally by his son, Alexander M. Huling. Occupied by Mr. Parsons, builder of Battle Monument. Torn down.

12—Old Court House No. 1.

2-story wood. Burned.

13—Old Court House No. 2. 2-story wood. Burned.

14—Worthington House.

2-1/2-story wood. Built and still occupied by George Worthington.

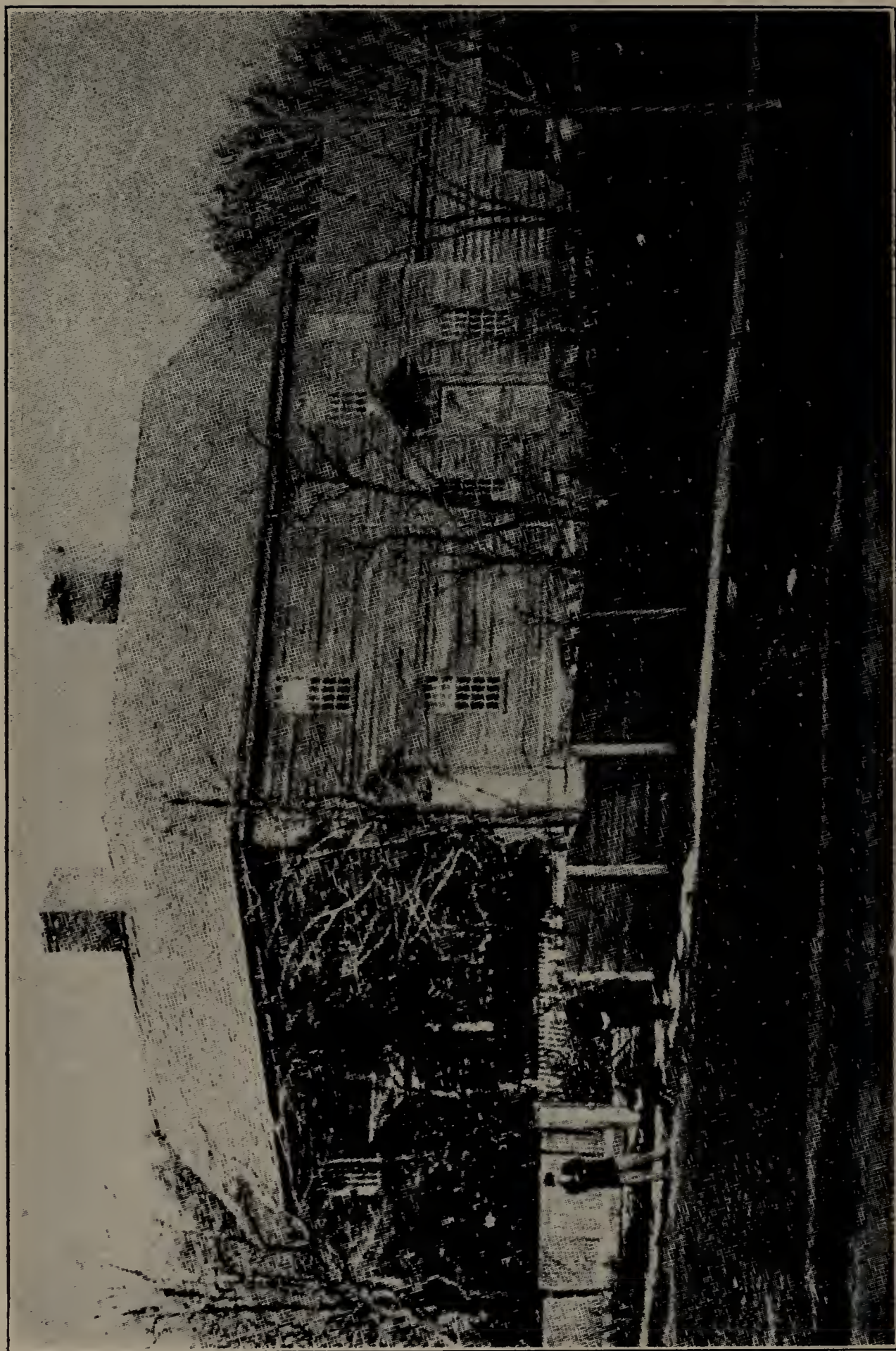
15—Lyman (Squire) Patchin Store.

2-story brick. Burned in 1877.

16—Lyman Patchin House.

2-story wood. Later owned by John N. Squires of Troy, N. Y. Burned in 1877.





*Pub. by courtesy of W. T. White*

The Catamount Tavern, 1767



17—Dr. Wm. Bigelow Home.

2-story wood. Removed to East Bennington. Torn down. (House stood in front of Harwood Cottage).

18—Sanford Cottage.

1-1/2-story wood. Built by Mary R. Sanford. Occupied for many years by James Murphy, now by Mrs. Harwood.

19—Martin Norton Home.

2-story wood. Torn down in 1838. Mr. Norton, who removed to Grass Valley, Calif., married for his second wife a sister of Benj. R. Sears.

20—Benj. Fay Home.

1-1/2-story wood. As harness shop stood originally on present Monument grounds near janitor's home. Moved by Mr. Fay to present site. Now owned by Hans Kelson.

21—Mrs. Benj. Fay Home.

2-story stone blacksmith shop, converted by Mrs. Fay into dwelling, then owned by her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Brown, now by Hans Kelson.

22—Calvin Ellenwood Carriage Shop.

2-story wood. Moved to East Bennington and now known as Collins House, standing opposite stone shop on Elm Street.

23—Conkling Home.

2-story brick house. Occupied first by Calvin Ellenwood, owned for many years by D. Hubbell Conkling, and occupied by his father, Daniel Conkling, of Rensselaerville, N. Y. Also occupied by Wm. Root, John Dwyer, and Chas. Powers. Later owned by Mrs. H. S. Pickands, and now by Mr. Walter H. Coyle.

24—Darius Clark Dwelling.

1-1/2-story wood. Occupied by John Cook and Irwin C. Potter. Later moved to lands of John Bahan. Torn down in 1909.





M. K. Scott's store, Old First Church, Court House,  
Henry Kellogg's House (in distance)



*Pub. by courtesy of W. T. White*

Old First Church, Bennington, Founded Dec. 3, 1762



25—Uel M. Robinson House.

2-story wood, built by himself in 1828. Later owned by his son-in-law, Samuel L. Robinson, now by Miss Mary Walsh of Chicago.

26—Richard Carpenter House.

2-story wood. Built in 1819. Owned later by Moses Harrington, now by Mrs. Elinor Squier.

27—Richard Carpenter Tailor Shop.

1-1/2-story wood. Occupied for many years by Chas. Kennon, later by James Cone. Torn down.

28—Allen Campbell House.

Small 1-story wood. Owned by Samuel Raymond. At one time used as post-office. Later moved to rear of Capt. Hawks house on Walloomsac St., now kitchen of Miss Lulu Robinson.

29—Samuel Raymond Home.

2-story brick. Later owned by S. B. Sanford, Judge Alfred Robinson and wife, Miss Mary R. Sanford, Otto Reimer, and now by C. B. Squier.

30—Bank House.

2-1/2-story brick. First bank in Bennington. Later owned by Mrs. Maria Patchin Scott, S. S. Scott, and Ed Scott. Occupied many years by Miss Lucretia Scott, affectionately known as "Aunt Kit," finally by C. N. Powers. Torn down by S. B. Sanford.

31—First log cabin in Bennington.

Built by Captain Samuel Robinson. Torn down. Granite marker built and unveiled August 16, 1923, by Deacon Samuel L. Robinson now marks site.

32—Select School.

1-story wood, used by Deacon Safford and Rev. James Ballard. Moved to lot north of Gardner Place, then to Squire's Corner, lastly to East Bennington. Later used for some years by Fred Berry (colored) as barber shop. Now standing on west side of North Street.



The "Oviatt Place"



Birthplace of Major Samuel H. Brown



33—Bennington Academy.

2-1/2-story brick. Built in 1821. Lower floor used for many years as District School No. 3, upper floor as prayer-meeting room for Old First Church, basement as Fire-Engine Room. Upper floor now Public Library. First floor and basement (after remodeling by Mary R. Sanford) are now used as Church Parlor, Kitchen and Entertainment Hall. Originally in 1821 the basement was a district school, the main floor a common school, and the second floor a high school.

34—Chapin Home.

1-1/2-story wood, built by Mrs. E. Chapin, aunt of Mrs. Jerusha Howe Henry, of Irish Corners, first wife of Eli Henry, and mother of the well-known authoress, Mary Henry (Howe Benning). Occupied for many years by Martin Cone. Burned. Rebuilt on site. Into the new house was built the law office of Judge Pierpont Isham. Sold to Wells Valentine. Occupied later by Mrs. E. R. Yale. Now owned by John Spargo.

35—Kellogg Home.

Built by James Hubbell. Later owned by his son-in-law, Henry Kellogg. Mr. Hubbell was father of a large family, among them triplets, James, who died in infancy, Margaret A. V., first wife of Henry Kellogg, and Ann Maria, second wife of Mr. Kellogg. House 2-1/2-story, large, Colonial, wood. Burned.

36—Clark Cottage.

1-1/2-story wood, built by Miss Ann Clark on site of Kellogg house.

37—Henry Kellogg Law Office.

1-story wood. At one time used as post office. Moved to rear of lot. Occupied by Mrs. Bridget Lynch. Moved to East Bennington. Burned.

38—McLeod House.

2-1/2-story wood. Built by J. L. Remington. Owned and occupied by Sayre McLeod.





The Harwood Houses  
Old Slab House on left, erected 1762  
Large House on right, erected 1769



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Walloomsac Inn—District School No. 19 and First Congregational Church

39—Catamount Tavern.

Stephen Fay, landlord. 2-story wood, built 1767. Council of safety met there 1767-1775, and plotted against England. Burned through carelessness in 1871, a loss Bennington can never replace.

40—Merrill Home.

2-1/2-story wood. Built east of tavern site by J. V. D. S. Merrill, now owned by Herman Erben.

41—Post Office.

1-story wood. Moved to East Bennington when Government gave that village Main Office. Old building was drawn by several yoke of oxen. First yoke was driven by Nick Harbor, second by James White. Mr. White relates that Mammy Squiers came out and made some very pungent remarks, while Nick Harbor yelled loud enough to be heard from Mt. Anthony to Bald Mountain. The building stood for years on the south-east corner of Main and South Streets, and was occupied by F. N. Squire as jewelry store. Moved to North St. (West Side), and occupied by Mr. Elmer Matteson. Now owned by George Hawks.

42—Wardell Cottage.

1-story wood. Moved to lands of P. B. Jennings, and joined to Ogden cottage (also moved there). Occupied for many years by Mrs. Elsie Ketchum.

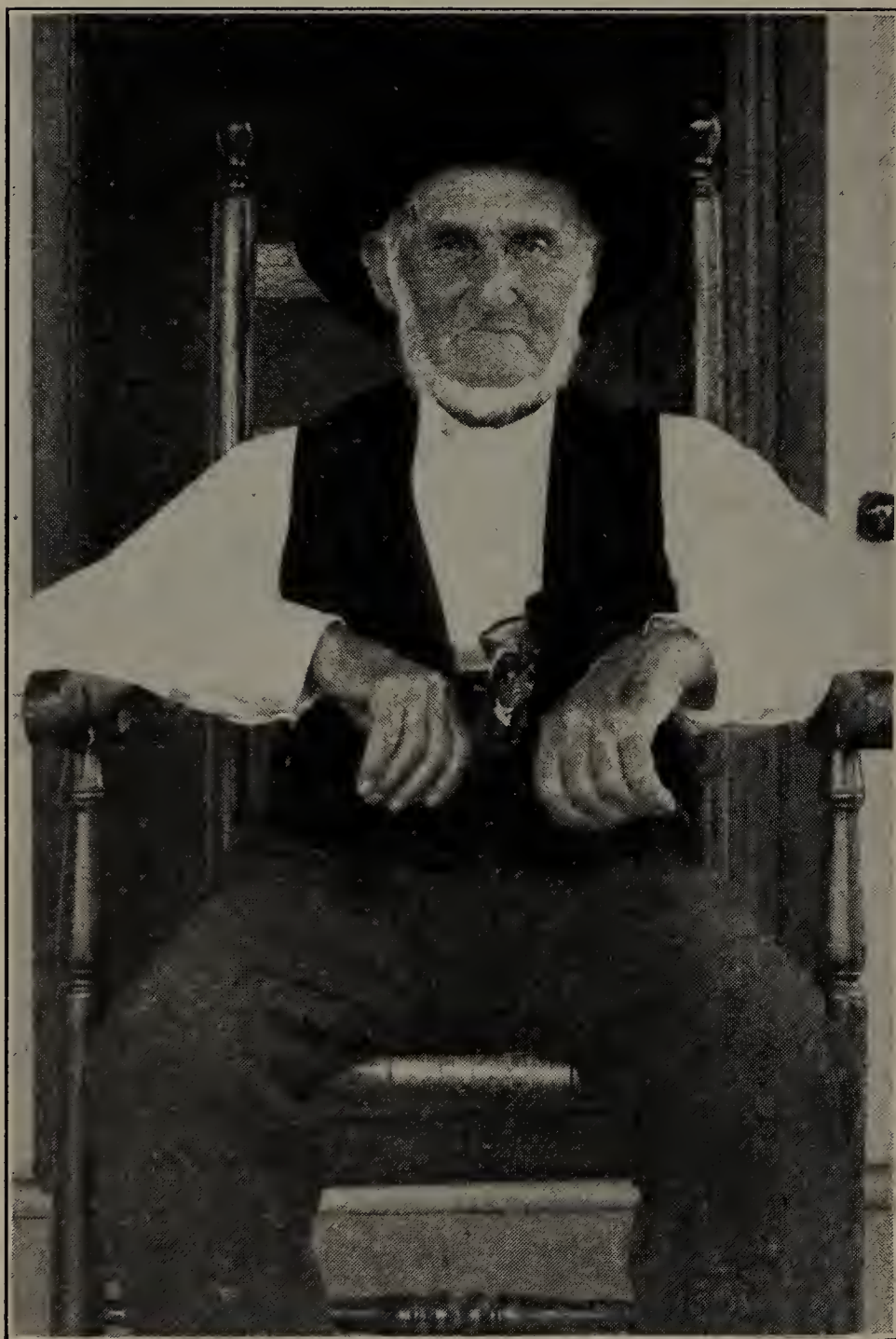
43—Ethan Allen Home.

2-1/2-story, gambrel roof. Supposed to have been built by Joseph Fay. Occupied by the hero of Ticonderoga during his years spent at Bennington Center. Owned later by Truman Squier. Torn down and rebuilt by J. B. Wardell, who used first floor as tin shop and second floor as dwelling. Later used as Church Parlors and called Ethan Allen Hall. Moved to lands of P. B. Jennings as farmhouse. Original site added to cemetery, and now occupied by Mausoleum of J. G. McCullough.

44—Court House No. 3.

2-1/2-story brick. Burned 1869.





"Uncle Hi," 93 years old  
See No. 95, Page 32

45—Clio Hall.

1-1/2-story wood school. Burned in 1803.

46—Old First Church. (Second Building).

Built 1805-1806 on site of Clio Hall.

47—Martin Scott Store.

2-1/2-story wood. Bought and moved to the south by Edwin S. Chandler, and now in use as grocery store.

48—Franklin Blackmer Home.

2-1/2-story wood. Built by Franklin and Eliza Blackmer. Later owned by Samuel Weeks, then by Franklin Blackmer, nephew of the original owner, then by his son, Samuel Huling Blackmer, now by his grandson, Samuel Howard Blackmer.

49—Jedediah Dewey House.

2-1/2-story wood, built by Mr. Dewey as first pastor of the Old Church in 1765. Later owned by Aaron Robinson and his descendants. Five generations of this family occupied this house 119 years. Now owned by Mr. Morton Hull of Chicago. One of Bennington's oldest frame houses, and the oldest house on Monument Avenue.

50—Hiland Hall Law Office.

1-story wood. Torn down.

51—Pliny Dewey Dwelling.

2-story wood. Residence for many years of Giles B. Kellogg, later of George W. Stearns, then of Justin Kellogg. Now owned by his widow.

52—Hiram Blackmer Dwelling.

1-1/2-story wood. Occupied for many years by Joseph McNamara. Torn down.

(Note). On grounds south of this house occurred in 1877 the centennial celebration of the Battle of Bennington, distinctly remembered by the compiler of this book.

53—Zenas Jones Home.

1-1/2-story wood, now owned by Wm. McCarthy.





Mount Anthony Seminary



Gov. John S. Robinson's Home



54—Bryant Home. 1-1/2-story wood. Burned.

55—Brown and Sanford Tin Shop.  
2-story wood. Torn down.

56—Russell Graves House. (Rear of lot).  
Now owned by Clarence Holden. (2-story wood).

57—Sheriff Ranney Home.  
1-1/2-story wood. Built by the sheriff. Later owned by Smith Montague, then by Daniel McMahon. Sold to John Wool Griswold. Enlarged, now owned by Arthur J. Holden. In the cellar kitchen of the old house occurred the famous episode of Uncle Hi, the donkey, and the red pepper.

58—Hopkins Harwood Home.  
2-story wood, built by John Hicks, sold to Heman Fay, then to Mr. Harwood. Now owned by A. J. Holden.

59—Alonzo Rand House.  
1-1/2-story wood, now owned by Mrs. John Wool Griswold.

60—Oviatt Home.  
2-1/2-story wood, built by F. Andrews. Owned many years by Norman F. Oviatt, then by his granddaughter Miss Louise Vail, now by Morton Hull. Occupied for a long time by Captain Samuel Robinson (2nd) and his wife, Temma Hawks Robinson.

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WEST SIDE OF MONUMENT AVENUE  
BEGINNING AT NORTH END

61—Leonard Robinson Home.  
2-story brick on North Hill beyond bridge of Rutland Railroad. Burned.

62—Selden House.  
1-1/2-story wood. Occupied for several years by Warren Rice and his first wife. Later by Elijah Downs, Martius Selden, Elisha Kennon, and John McDonald. Torn down when monument was built.



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The Old Red Bridge

63—The Continental Store House.

2-story wood. It contained supplies for the American army, the coveting of which by General Burgoyne finally caused the Battle of Bennington. Torn down.

64—Fassett Home.

2-story wood. Built by John Fassett. Occupied for several years by Hial Parsons and his first wife, Harriet Robinson Parsons. Burned 1877.

65—Monument Janitor's Home.

2-story cement. Occupied by Hans Kelson.

66—Colonel Merrill Home.

2-1/2-story brick, hip roof. Built by Jonathan Robinson. Later owned by his son-in-law, Colonel Orsamus C. Merrill. Mr. Robinson later built the 2-1/2-story brick hotel adjoining, known as the State Arms House. Merrill home torn down when the monument was built.

67—State Arms House.

3-story brick. Had ball-room in third story, with spring floor. Torn down when monument was built. A mistake for Bennington to build a historical monument and tear down the only historical building on the grounds.

68—Nathan Robinson House.

2-story wood. Burned.

69—Captain David Robinson Dwelling.

2-story wood. Deeded by him to First Congregational Church for a parsonage, and now so used. Vermont Gazette was for many years printed in the cellar kitchen by Anthony Haswell.

70—Governor John S. Robinson Home.

2-story wood, gambrel roof. Torn down and rebuilt by his widow. Mr. Robinson was the only Democrat ever elected governor of Vermont, and how Bennington did celebrate. House now owned by Miss Ethel Hateley.





The "Vail Homestead"



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The Old Harmon Inn, 1770-1911



71—J. S. Robinson and Tarrant Sibley Law Office.

1-story wood, now part of house.

72—Store built by Dr. M. J. Lyman.

2-story wood, used by Dr. Lyman, then by Saxton Pickett, General Henry Robinson, Brown and Fay, Hial Parsons, and Alfred Robinson. Business discontinued and building now a part of Wellington house.

73—Vandercook House.

2-story wood, built by Dr. Micah J. Lyman (father of Deacon George Lyman). Sold to Asa Hyde, then to Saxton Pickett. After his death, Mrs. Pickett married Mr. Vandercook. She died in 1865, and Mrs. Ann D. Frost rented the house until her death in 1888, when the heirs sold it to George B. Wellington. Now a part of his estate.

74—Wm. Haswell House.

Built by Uel M. Robinson. 2-story brick. Mr. Haswell married Sarah Robinson. His second wife, Lydia Stacy, affectionately known as "Aunt Billy," was one of Bennington's finest select school teachers. Mr. Haswell was for many years town and church clerk, and the beautiful writing of his first wife, Sarah R. Haswell, may still be seen in the records. House torn down by Mr. Wellington.

75—Richmond Fiske House.

1-story wood. Used by Mrs. Walbridge as millinery store. Torn down.

76—First Home of General David Robinson.

2-story wood. When new home was built in the rear the general's mother refused to move, and remained there until she died. Torn down.

77—General David Robinson Home.

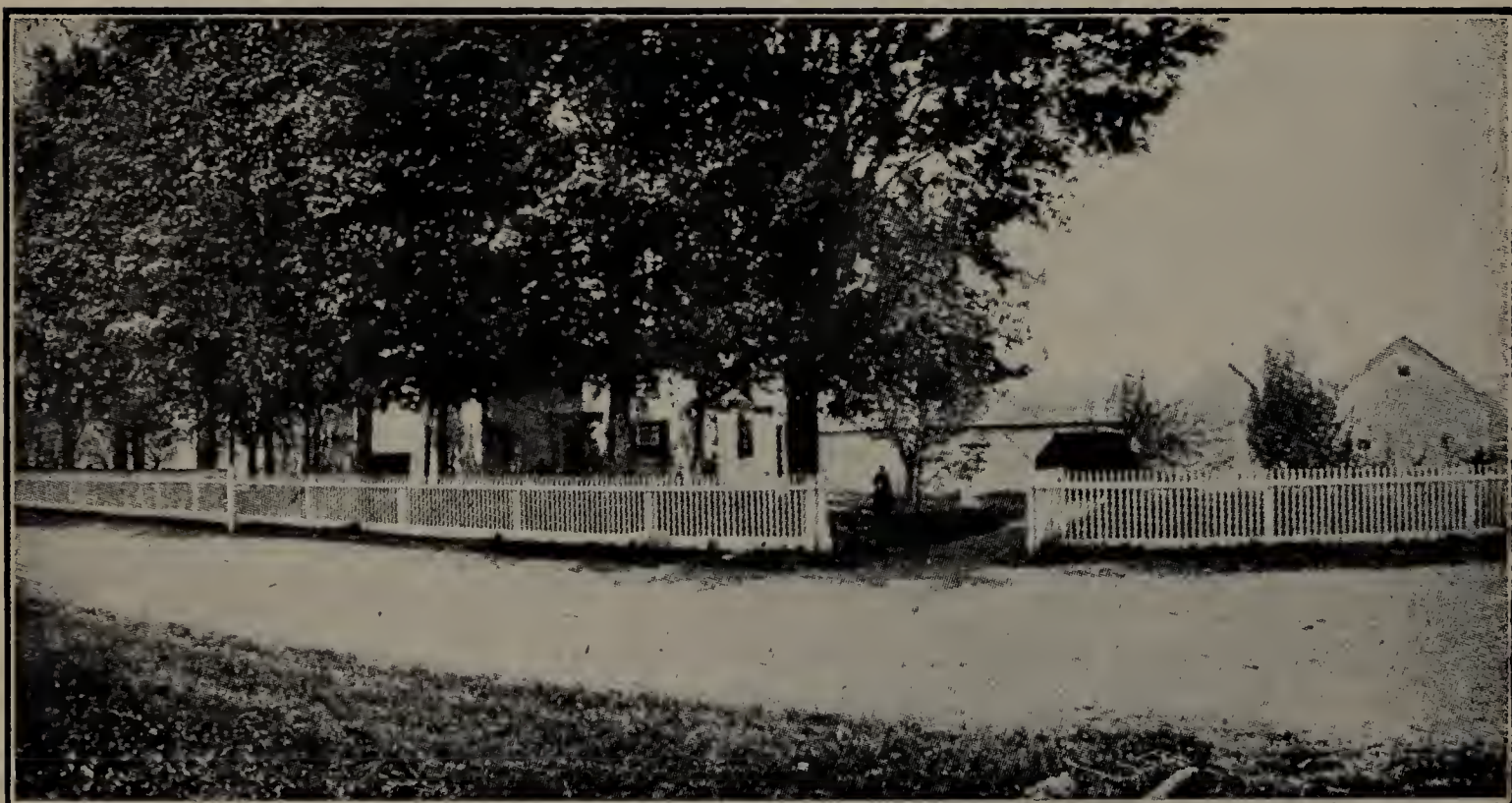
Colonial dwelling erected in 1795. Now occupied by Miss Carrie and Mr. George A. Robinson. This house contains a fireplace in which a tall man can stand upright, also a brick oven.





*Pub. by courtesy of W. T. White*

House where Col. Baum died August 16, 1777



The Hubbell Home, erected 1768-9



78—Abraham B. Gardner House.

2-story wood. Built by Mr. Gardner and his first wife, Mary J. Swift. Occupied for a time by Rev. Mr. Hand, Thos. White, and Mr. Jenkins. Burned, rebuilt, now owned by H. C. Shields.

79—Saxton Squires Home.

1-½-story wood. Occupied for a time by General Ethan Allen, also by Heman Armstrong. Torn down.

80—Asa Hyde Cabinet Shop.

1-½-story wood. Later law office of A. B. Gardner. Moved to Wellington Place.

81—Asa Hyde Dwelling.

2-story wood. Mr. Hyde came from Connecticut and did all the carving in the Old First Church by hand. House sold to Roberts family, then to Pliny Crawford, then to Mr. Shaw of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and occupied by his brother-in-law, Harry L. Patchin. Now owned by Mrs. Isaac Walker.

82—Dr. Noadiah Swift House.

2-story wood. Built by Jonathan Fassett. Owned for many years by Dr. Benjamin F. Morgan, then by Miss Martha Austin, now by Mrs. A. K. Cole.

83—Charles R. Sanford Store.

2-story brick. Post Office for many years. Torn down.

84—C. R. Sanford, Undertaker.

2-story wood. Torn down.

85—John Hicks Store.

1-story wood. Used as post office. Moved to lands of P. B. Jennings.

86—Jail.

2-story stone. In rear of John Hicks store. Torn down.



## 87—Tin Shop.

Long 2-story building of wood. First story was tin shop and tailor shop of Orvill H. Rose. Second story was district school. Rag shop of Thomas White and James A. Chapin in the rear. Torn down.

## 88—Walloomsac Inn.

2-1/2-story building of wood. Built in 1764 by Captain Elijah Dewey. Conducted for many years by Alfred Robinson. Enlarged and now owned by Walter H. Berry.

## 89—Dr. Heman Swift Home.

2-story dwelling of wood, owned for many years by Chas. W. Swift, later by Mrs. Fanny S. Patterson.

## 90—Abner Griswold Home.

2-story wood. In this building Wm. Lloyd Garrison printed his "Journal of the Times." Later occupied by Miss Lucretia Scott, Mrs. Rhoda Canfield and Miss Dorcas Squire. Burned.

## 91—Samuel H. Blackmer Home.

2-story wood. Moved to northwest and now owned and occupied by Rev. Joseph H. Robinson.

## 92—Martin Scott House.

2-story brick. Built by Elisha Root. Later owned by Miss Alice Robinson, now by Samuel H. Blackmer.

## 93—Tailor Shop.

1-1/2-story brick. Used as dwelling for many years by Elisha Searles, later by Warren White. Torn down.

## 94—Mrs. Fassett Home.

1-1/2-story wood. Built and used as carpenter shop by Hiram Waters. Made over into dwelling by Mrs. Fassett. Occupied for many years by James Fisher, blacksmith, then by Joseph McNamara. Sold to Miss Caroline B. Downs. Now owned by Miss Tillie Marley, and occupied by Mrs. R. H. Merrill.

## 95—Hiram Waters Dwelling (Uncle Hi).

1-1/2-story wood. Now owned and occupied by Mrs. C. F. Merrill.

- 96—Charles Church Home and Law Office.  
2-story wood. Torn down.
- 97—Edwin S. Chandler House.  
1-1/2-story wood. Now occupied by Wm. Miller.
- 98—Samuel Chandler Blacksmith Shop.  
1-story wood. Moved to rear of present Chandler store and used as storehouse.
- 99—Edwin S. Chandler Store.  
2-story wood. Main building formerly the M. K. Scott store. Annex of original Chandler store adjoins on south. Now operated by Wm. Miller.
- 100—Edwin S. and Mary A. Chandler Dwelling.  
2-story wood. Built by A. Frost in 1780. Later owned by J. Greenwood. Purchased by Lewis and Samuel Chandler in 1823. Now owned by estate of Edwin S. Chandler.
- 101—Jacob Brooks House.  
1-1/2-story wood. Once used as school. Now owned and occupied by Mrs. Morris Connolly.
- 102—Orvill H. Rose Home.  
2-story wood. Later occupied by H. Cole. Taken down, moved to East Bennington and rebuilt.
- 103—Henry Dexter House.  
1-1/2-story wood. Occupied by J. Seymour Merrill. Torn down.
- 104—Elisha Waters House.  
Built by Mr. Waters. Owned for many years by Gay R. Sanford, then by Charles R. Sanford, later by Mrs. Maria Sanford, now by A. J. Holden. House now on the campus of the Bennington College, and being remodeled for the home of the President.
- 105—Job Swift House.  
2-1/2-story wood. Built in 1790 by Captain John Fassett. Real old Revolutionary style, with massive fireplaces, and brick oven. Owned later by Moses Paige, and occupied by his son, Orin Paige. Torn down.

Land now owned by Edward H. Everett, whose gate-house stands south of site. (Everett mansion on slope of Mt. Anthony, southwest of gate-house.)

106—John Wool Griswold Farmhouse.

2-story wood. Occupied for many years by Henry Sibley. Now owned by Edward H. Everett.

107—Edwin Paige House.

1-1/2-story wood. Removed northeast to road leading from Dewey Dunham home to East Bennington, on lands of Drohat family.

108—Hinman House.

2-1/2-story, gambrel roof, wood, with upper and lower piazzas full length of front. Major Samuel H. Brown was born there. Owned and occupied for many years by Moses Paige. Later by his widow, Mrs. Cordelia Ruggles Paige. Burned in 1883.

109—Harwood House. Built 1769.

2-story wood. Occupied for many years by Burt Rockwood. Now owned by Seymour Van Santvoord.

110—Original Harwood House.

2-story slab. First frame house in Bennington. Built in 1762 by Peter Harwood, son of Mrs. Bridget Harwood, the first woman to come to Bennington. House stood southeast of Van Santvoord home. Occupied for many years by Alonzo Rand. Used later as spring house for milk. Torn down, a great mistake for Bennington to permit.

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## HOUSES ON SIDE STREETS

*West Road, called Mt. Anthony St., from Walloomsac Inn West. South Side of West Road.*

111—Katherine J. Hubbell House.

2-story wood, erected in 1816, by Samuel Scott. Occupied for many years by Albert C. Hubbell, now owned and occupied by his sister, Miss Katherine J. Hubbell.



112—Conkling Gate-house.

1-1/2-story stone, built by D. Hubbell Conkling. Conkling mansion on the hill to the southwest built of stone in 1864 by D. Hubbell Conkling. Burned. Rebuilt by Mrs. Hope Conkling Colgate (Mrs. James C.).

113—Reuben Wickwire Home.

Double 2-story house of wood, very old. Torn down by Elbridge Brown and rebuilt as wagon shed on property of Jonathan Richmond.

114—Farmhouse.

2-story wood. Owned by Daniel Robinson estate. Occupied for many years by Nelson Comstock, John McMahon, and James Cone. Now owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Jennings Martin.

115—Daniel Robinson Home.

Built of stone by General Edwin R. Yale. Sold to Daniel Robinson. Now owned by his granddaughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Martin.

116—Elijah Dewey Hubbell Home.

**1827266**

Large 2-story house of wood, now owned by James C. Colgate.

117—Farmhouse.

Remodeled barn, 2-story wood, near Dewey Hubbell house, owned by J. C. Colgate.

118—Brigham House.

2-story wood, built for Miss Ada Brigham by J. C. Colgate.

119—Brettell Home.

2-story wood owned by J. C. Colgate.

120—Mrs. Alice Welles House.

2-story wood, owned by Oliver Ayers, then by George Harwood, later by Randol Roberts, now by his daughter, Mrs. Welles.

121—James Seymour Merrill House.

2-story wood, built by Hiland Hall. Torn down.

## 122—Carter Hall House.

2-story wood. Occupied for years by Rev. Dr. Edward Hooker, later by Marshall Carter Hall, now owned by Mrs. Samuel B. Hall Estate.

## 123—Seminary Property.

School, 2-1/2-story wood, built by Deacon Stephen Hinsdell in 1825, operated for many years by Rev. James Ballard, Rev. Gordon Hayes and Prof. George W. Yates. Built over into house.

## 124—Boarding House.

3-story wood. Torn down.

## 125—Yates Cottage.

2-story wood, built and occupied by Mrs. James (Betsey) Street and daughters. (All owned by J. C. Colgate 1923).

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## 126—John Vanderspiegel Home.

Old, 2-1/2-story, wood, with gambrel roof. Torn down.

## 127—Guy B. Johnson Home.

2-story wood, owned by his widow.

## 128—Miss Helen Johnson House.

2-story wood, built by C. R. Sanford.

## 129—District School No. 19.

Built of brick. Burned. Rebuilt of wood.

## 130—Ogden Cottage.

1-1/2-story wood. Built by James (Honey) Ogden. Occupied for many years by Mrs. P. Welch. Removed to lands of P. B. Jennings as home of Mrs. Elsie Ketchum. Now owned by Mr. Jennings.

## 131—Old Ogden House.

2-story wood. Lower floor occupied for many years by Chas. Kennon. Upper floor used by Caleb S. Poole as harness shop. Moved to lands of Riley Harrington. Now owned by George Hummer.

132—Ogden Barn.

2-story wood. Original High Pulpit of present Old First Church was stored for years on second floor. Torn down.

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NORTH SIDE OF WEST ROAD

133—Aaron Hubbell House. "The Hubbell Homestead."

2-story wood. Built in 1768-9 by Deacon John Wood. Purchased in 1780 by Captain Elijah Dewey and given as a wedding present to his daughter Sarah upon her marriage to Lieutenant Aaron Hubbell. Now owned by Robert L. Hubbell.

134—Second Home of Deacon John Wood.

2-story wood. Built in 1780. Stood northeast of corner of so-called "cross-road" and near Boughton stone quarry. Torn down.

135—Phillip B. Jennings Farmhouse. 2-story wood.

136—Phillip B. Jennings Mansion. 2-1/2-story wood.

137—Office of Judge Pierpont Isham.

1-story wood, now a part of John Spargo house.

138—Pierpont Isham Home.

2-1/2-story wood. Built in 1800 by Rev. David Avery. Later owned by Judge Isham, then by Thomas R. Sexton, lastly by P. B. Jennings. Burned.

139—Governor Isaac Tichenor House.

2-story wood, very old. Owned later by George Lyman, whose second wife was a niece of Governor Tichenor, then by Deacon Lyman's daughter, Mrs. Ezra W. Boughton. Sold by the Boughton Estate to Leonard Outhwaite, the present owner, who is a step-son of P. B. Jennings.

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ROAD RUNNING WEST FROM MONUMENT, AND  
CALLED WALLOOMSAC STREET

*(Commencing at Henry Scott House, Northside)*

140—Henry Scott House.

2-story wood, built in 1767. Colonel Martin Scott was born there. He was the original of the story, "I'm a gone coon." Occupied by family until 1916. (149 years). Since death of Miss Ellen Scott owned by J. C. Colgate.

141—Hiram Scott House. (Brother of Henry).

2-story wood. Later owned by Patrick Casey, Mrs. Richard Casey, now by Carl White.

142—John Madden Dwelling.

1-1/2-story wood.

143—John Burke Dwelling.

1-1/2-story wood.

144—Mrs. Merchant Dwelling.

2-1/2-story brick, built by Isaac T. Robinson. Occupied by William Caldwell, then by Wm. Corbiere. Sold in 1880 to Mrs. Chas. Merchant. Torn down in 1923. Premises owned by Mrs. James Eddy.

145—Isaac T. Robinson Home.

2-story wood. Owned later by his son, Daniel Robinson, then by Miss Lulu Robinson, now by Mr. Robert Parmalee.

146—Jason Stearns Home.

1-1/2-story wood, originally barn of Nathan Robinson. Made over into house by Benj. R. Sears. Later owned by Edmund Robinson, then by his daughter, Mrs. Kate Shaw, now by Mr. Wilson of Williamstown, Massachusetts, and used as restaurant under name of Wentworth Arms.

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WALLOOMSAC STREET, SOUTH SIDE

147—John Cone Home.

2-story wood.

148—John Jepson Home.

2-story wood.

149—Uel Hicks Dwelling.

2-story wood. Burned. Rebuilt south of site by Howard Shields.

150—Captain Hawks Home.

2-story wood. Built by General Henry Robinson. Owned later by Ira Hawks, then by John A. Robinson, then by John V. D. S. Merrill, now by Miss Lulu Robinson.

151—Boardman House.

2-story wood. Built by Dr. L. P. Williams, owned successively by Dr. F. T. Gilbert, James Boardman, Jason Stearns, James Pickett, Mrs. Mary Fox, James Doyle, Mrs. John Delevan, Collins Graves, Mrs. Wm. Graves, Mrs. D. L. Boardman, now by Mrs. Henry Boardman.

152—Poole Homestead.

1-1/2-story wood. Built in 1806 by Jacob and Zeruah Poole, of South Abington, Massachusetts. Later owned by Caleb Strong Poole, then by his widow, Jane Terbush Poole, then by his daughter, Katherine H. Poole, now by his grandson, Richard S. Bayhan, Cleveland, Ohio, compiler of this book. Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Haff, cousins of the owner.

153—Jason Stearns Shoe Shop.

1-1/2-story wood. Built and occupied by Mr. Stearns. Later used as house by Seaton and Whittaker families. Torn down by John H. Bahan.

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ROAD RUNNING NORTHWEST FROM SIBLEY-MER-  
CHANT CORNER, AT WALLOOMSAC ST.,  
EAST SIDE

154—Vail Homestead.

Old 2-story wood. Built in Revolutionary Times, owned for many years by Deacon John Vail, later by Barker Vail, now by his children.

155—Brann Home.

1-1/2-story wood. Owned by Patrick Brann and John Madden, later by Fred Mattison. Burned.

156—Miles Burke House.

1-1/2-story wood. Burned.

157—Martin Craven House.

1-1/2-story wood. Owned now by his children.

158—Nathanael Noyes House.

2-story wood. Owned later by Daniel Russell. Burned.

159—Quackenbush Gate-house.

1-1/2-story stone. Occupied for several years by Harry Goddeau.

160—George Quackenbush Mansion.

3-story wood. Now owned by Samuel J. Keyes, Jr. Operated as hotel and called the new Catamount Tavern.

161—Deacon John F. Robinson Home.

2-1/2-story wood. Later owned by Samuel L. Robinson, then by John T. McRoy, now by Judge Orion M. Barber.

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NORTHWEST ROAD, WEST SIDE

162—Mattison House.

2-story wood. Built by Fred Mattison. Later owned by Fred Baker, now by Walter H. Plumb. (John H. Bahan died there in August, 1908.)

163—Prentice Home.

2-story wood. Built by Asher Prentice. Owned later by Patrick Cone, then by John Cone, now by Nick Cone.

164—Samuel Fay House.

1-1/2-story wood. Built by Benj. Fay, son of Landlord Fay of the Catamount Tavern. Owned later by Samuel Fay, then by Norman F. Crosier. Torn down.

165—Martin Murphy Home.

2-story wood. Owned for many years by Murphy family, then by George Quackenbush, now by John Baker.

166—Zimri Haswell House.

1-1/2-story wood. Owned later by Hugh Kelly, and now by his children.

167—Tarrant Sibley Home.

2-1/2-story wood. Burned, rebuilt, now owned by Mrs. James Eddy.

168—Tarrant Sibley Law Office.

1-story brick. Torn down.

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BANK HILL, NEAR ACADEMY

169—Charles Dunn Home.

1-1/2-story wood. Built by Uel M. Robinson. Occupied for many years by Mr. Dunn. Torn down. Rebuilt of wood by Charles Squier. Occupied by Mr. Curtin.

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CATAMOUNT LANE

170—Miss May Clark House, 2-story wood residence.

171—Dr. John Gordon Wilson, 2-story wood residence.

172—John Cushman, 2-story wood residence.

173—Commodore Field Home. Now owned by Mrs. John Harper of New York.



174—2-story square brick house, formerly home of Catholic Priest.

175—Old Catholic Church. Built of flint stone. Now being remodeled into Historical museum.

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### CHURCH HILL

176—2-story wooden house, built by Huling Blackmer, now owned by S. H. Blackmer.

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### ELM STREET

*(Leading from McCarthy Home to Bennington)*

177—Warren A. Leonard 2-story wood residence.

178—Miss Ada Brigham 2-story wood residence.

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179—Original "Old First Church", built of wood in 1762-3. Located "On the Green" between Walloomsac Inn and Cemetery. Torn down in 1807. The site is now marked by a Granite Monument.

180—Mention should be made also of 3-story brick house of Governor Moses Robinson where Country Club House now stands. Torn down and rebuilt of wood. Owned for many years by Dr. Frederick G. Clark. Sold to Golf Club.

181—Also of brick home of Mrs. Esther Safford Robinson on North Bennington Road, northwest of Crosier Place. Later owned by James Silk. Burned. Rebuilt of brick. Now owned by Frank A. Eaton.

182—Further, of the Dimmick Tavern commonly known as the "Dimmick Stand", located on the road to Hoosac Corners, about half-way between Bennington and the New York State Line. The Tavern was a stopping place for the stage coaches of early days.

183—Finally, of the Harmon Inn, a relic of Revolutionary days, located about one and one-half miles northwest of Bennington. The building collapsed a few years ago.

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The compiler wishes to thank the people of riper years whose work he has sought to perpetuate. Covering 1761-1927 is a large contract.



Richard S. Bayhan



## CENTENNIAL OF 1877 RECALLED BY R. S. BAYHAN

Writer Says Changes in Town Are Almost Unbelievable

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### DESCRIBES CENTER

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Village Had Two Schools and a Seminary for Boys, and  
But Four Stores

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### NO WATER SYSTEM

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Kerosene Lamps and Candles Gave Light and Horses  
Were Means of Travel

Richard S. Bayhan, now of Cleveland, Ohio, one of Bennington's oldtimers and who was familiarly known as Dick Bayhan in the old days, has consented to write an article for the Banner on the subject, 'Bennington-on-the-Hill Fifty-Years-Ago.' Mr. Bayhan has completed his article which is printed below and is of interest not only to those who recall some of the events of which the author speaks, but to those of the younger generation who are interested in early Bennington. Mr. Bayhan is spending his summer vacation here.

The article follows:

To one whose memory goes back to 1877, the changes have been so sweeping that I can hardly feel, that I am visiting the same village. The modern improvements have made a tremendous change. On the summit of the hill, where the monument now stands, the State Highway ran to the steep North Hill, down which we youngsters used to coast on our double-runners clear through the old red bridge, which we had previously "snowed" over. One can hardly realize today, with the small winter population of "Town Hill" that a crowd of one hundred boys and girls was no unusual occurrence at a "sliding party."

On the west side of the street we passed the homes of Elisha Kennon, the Fassett house, the Merrill home, and the State Arms house. Across the street stood the Patchin house and store, the Huling house and the homes of Samuel Chase, Benjamin R. Sears, John H. Bahan, H. L. Stillson, James

Bahan and Michael Martin. The last house still remains. Some of the others were burned, the balance torn down when the monument was built.

There were very few summer residents when the 1877 Centennial occurred. Nearly all the people lived at Bennington Center, all the year round. Two large district schools were maintained, No. 3 in the Academy, presided over by Miss Kate Griffin, and No. 19 by Miss Harriet Dunham. No 19, a brick building opposite the Tichenor place, was destroyed by fire and rebuilt from wood. A short distance beyond stood the Mt. Anthony Seminary, a boarding school for boys, Prof. George W. Yates being the splendid and efficient principal. The professor conducted Sunday school music at the Old First church, his daughter, Miss Lillie Yates, ably presided at the organ, while the "Seminary boys" sang till the old church rang and echoed with such wonderful Sunday school music as I have never heard since.

Rev. Isaac Jennings was the beloved pastor of the old church. A large congregation was present every Sunday. The choir of about 30 voices was led by the organist, Mrs. Samuel L. Robinson or as we knew her, "Mrs. Maggie Robinson." The beautiful, devotional music had a reputation that extended hundreds of miles away. Father O'Dwyer was the honored pastor of the Catholic church, at the old stone building, now the museum.

There were four general stores, the Patchin store on the summit of the hill, another kept by Charles R. Sanford; Mr. Sanford was Postmaster for many years, also conducted a furniture and undertaking establishment, his store being located near the Walloomsac Inn.

A third store stood across the corner from the "Old Church" and was operated by Mr. Martin K. Scott, a kindly gentleman of the old school. The fourth store was owned by Deacon Samuel Chandler and is still ably managed by William Miller.

In those old days, there was no water system on the hill, wells and cistern being the available sources of water. I yield to no one in my admiration of the wonderful water system made possible by Henry W. Putnam, but many a time on a hot day I long to stand by the "old Fassett well" on "Town



Hill" and drop the bucket 60 feet through the living rock, to return filled with the "hard water" with which the hill abounded. We had no electric lights in those days, kerosene lamps and candles being the light givers.

I remember when mother had one lamp for "company," tallow candles giving us our regular lights. It fell to me to put the rods through the wicks in the candle molds, and then to pull them through and tie them at the bottom while mother melted and poured the tallow.

Horses, carriages, wagons and sleighs were our means of travel. On Sunday the old church horse sheds were filled with teams driven by people who came a long distance to church.

In the homes, stoves were rapidly displacing the fireplaces and brick ovens, although I remember on the days when pigs were killed, that grandmother heated the water in the fire place and baked in the brick oven. The whole hill seemed like one big family, everyone was friendly with everyone else. Somehow the old horse and wagon made friendship while the automobile often typifies selfishness. Most of the get-together parties are gone. The husking bees, when we hung old tin lanterns in the barn and lunched on mince pie, pumpkin pie and sweet cider, brought a crowd of happy folks on the scene for an evening of rare enjoyment. The hustle of today, the covering of great distances in a short time, tends to break the community into small groups.

In 1877 there were no telephones, so our grandmothers put on their sunbonnets and with a basket in each hand trudged to the store and brought home all the necessary articles. Bread, pie or cake was rarely bought at a store, each house-wife doing her own baking, and canning of fruit and vegetables. The ladies still wore enormous hoop-skirts and had to tip up side ways to get through the doors. The men wore full beards, side-boards or moustaches. A smooth faced man was a rare sight.

Some of our old settlers were full of fun, practical jokers in many ways. The chief among them was Hiram Waters, whom we called "Uncle Hi." No one was every angry with him as he was so good-natured. Well do I remember when he tied a bunch of fire-crackers to the tail of an old horse and let



him run down the street on August 16th. When remonstrated with he said, "Jest celebratin', that's all." A very odd character was "Jimmy Darby" who never spoke to anyone, but slept in my father's barn and was fed by the kind-hearted women of the Hill.

As the year 1877 came the people began to grow excited over the Centennial, which was to come in August. Inspired by the big one at Philadelphia in 1876, the people of Bennington decided to have one worth while. And they did. President Hayes, who was present, said it was "A quart celebration in a pint town."

The "big show" was on the land nearly opposite the Chandler store. The usual exhibits, concerts, parades, etc., were given with great patronage. President Hayes held a reception, and one man, (a famous character in those days) went in seven times and was introduced to the President under a different name each time. On Sunday a great Union Service was held in the Old First Church at four o'clock. A large choir sang many beautiful old hymns. The pulpit was filled with ministers, several of whom made short addresses. One elderly pastor became somewhat mixed in his remarks. He intended to say, "I am the oldest minister here, who was born in Vermont," instead of which he said, "I am the oldest man ever born in Vermont," then stared in bewilderment as the congregation laughed out loud.

All the old Benningtonians came home in 1877 to participate. Great anticipations of the coming Battle Monument were in the air. Ten years later the writer saw the laying of the cornerstone, Aug. 16, 1887. Today the children and grandchildren of the people of 1877 are honoring their memories and celebrating the 150th anniversary of the battle. May the spirit of John Stark and his brave men be with us, may we be inspired by the memories of their lives and deeds, and when the 200th anniversary dawns in 1977, we may rest assured, that although many of us in middle life will have passed on, there will still be the thrill that must come to every one born in Bennington as we remember that the Battle of Bennington was the turning point of the war, and that from August 16, 1777, the United States of America was an assured fact.

“And once where stood the storehouse,  
There rises grand and high,  
The rugged Battle monument, straight pointing to the sky.  
Its rough, grim shaft suggesting,  
The men of '77  
Who fought with Stark, the hero,  
Till victory was given.  
And may we ever cherish, the memory of that day,  
When forth to win or perish, they marched from home away.  
May Bennington to Liberty, be ever found a friend,  
May peace and may prosperity attend her to the end.”

## THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

*August 13-16, 1927*

100,000 people came and went during the period. It was a triumphant success like all of Bennington's great history. Kind Providence gave us fine weather. The beautiful Pageant given several times, near Gipsy Lane, was greatly enjoyed.

On Sunday morning early, a vast crowd assembled on and near the monument grounds, to participate in a beautiful, sacred, open-air service. We thrilled as we listened to the grand old hymns and felt that the famous Bennington singers of other days were with us in spirit.

Monday a fine procession of school children marched to the old Hill, and a marker, to indicate the first school, was dedicated. Various other markers were placed during the day.

Tuesday, the great day, we shall never forget. The magnificent parade to the monument, where many Governors or their representatives were present, the splendid addresses, the wonderful decorations, all, all, was perfect. And I thought of the long years gone by, of the four Governors and great soldiers of the Revolution who sleep in the Old Cemetery near the White Church. Again my mind dwelt on the great men who have visited the Village, how Jefferson and Madison both came one Sunday and attended Church, then Pres. Hayes at the Centennial of 1877, Benjamin Harrison at the monument dedication in 1891. Then of the visit of Woodrow Wilson who came as a small boy, when his father preached one Sunday in the old Church. And I know that in future years many great people will stand near the site of the Continental Store House and say, "Thank God for Bennington."















